

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Moreover, the applicants have reviewed the First Office Action of July 27, 2005, and submit that this paper is responsive to all points raised therein.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 9-26 are pending in the instant Patent Application. Claims 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 25 and 26 have been amended. These amendments are directed to formalities only. In claims 9, 12 and 16, commas were added after “and” before the final clause. In claim 16, “the” was changed to “said”, and the claim was amended for consistency to refer to a “receiving portion”. In claim 19, “the” was changed to “said.” In claims 23, 25 and 26, “a” was changed to “said”, in accordance with the suggestions of the Examiner in Paragraph 1 of the Office Action. It is respectfully asserted that these amendments are editorial in nature and are not substantive.

II. Rejections Under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 9-26 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Weber (U.S. Patent No. 3,670,413) (Weber ‘413).

Independent claims 9, 12 and 19, include recitations directed to flexible members with two parts. One part, a first part, is for moving from an inward position, engaging a stub or rotating member associated with a motor, to an outward position, to allow for the lawnmower blade to be removed from the stub or rotating member. The other part of the flexible member is at a different location than the first part, and is such that pressure placed on this second part allows the first part to move from the inward position to the outward position.

Claims 9 and 12 recite the above-described structure as the respective ends or second portions, of the flexible members, and these ends or second portions are configured such that downward pressure thereon, causes the engaging portions or first portions, respectively, to move outward. This outward movement, for example, allows the receiver, and hence, the blades to be releasable from the stub, or other rotating member.

Claim 19, as stated previously, and as further amended in a previous paper, is directed to a lawnmower blade including a receiver with flexible members having oppositely disposed first and second ends. The flexible members include first portions at the first ends, that are configured for moving between outward and inward positions, and second portions at the second ends, that are configured such that pressure thereon moves the first portions to the outward positions. The first portions are discontinuous from the second portions.

Weber '413 teaches spring clips 13 with ends that are moved outward to release the blade 12 from the hub 14. This outward movement of the ends of the spring clips 13 is in no way the downward movement of the ends or second portions, that results in the engaging portions or first portions, respectively, moving outward, allowing the blades to be releasable, as recited in claims 9, 12 and 19.

Additionally, in Weber '413, the portion of each spring clip 13 (shown in the cited drawing as the end of the lead line 13 in the left figure of the Office Action, and at the locations of the arrowheads in the right figure of the Office Action), that disengages from the hub 14, is the same portion, that if moved manually, would be moved outward.

This is in contrast to the subject matter recited in claims 9, 12 and 19, where the engaging/disengaging portion of each flexible member is a different portion than the portions for receiving the pressure, to move the engaging/disengaging portions to the outward positions.

Based on the above, Weber '413 does not show the structure recited in claims 9, 12 and 19. Accordingly, claims 9, 12 and 19, are not anticipated by Weber '413 under 35 USC 102(b).

Moreover, since the flexible members of claims 9, 12 and 19 operate in a completely different manner than the spring clips 13 of Weber '413, it is respectfully asserted that Weber '413 can not render claims 9, 12 and 19 obvious under 35 USC 103(a).

Since claims 9, 12, and 19 are neither anticipated by Weber '413 under 35 USC 102(b), nor obvious in view of Weber '413 under 35 USC 103(a), claims 10 and 11, 13-15, and 20-22, respectively dependent thereon, are also allowable over this cited art for the same reasons. These claims further distinguish the invention from this cited art.

Claims 16 and 23 include a receiving portion for receiving at least a portion of a rotatable member and the above-discussed structure of the flexible members with distinct first and second portions for retaining the rotatable member at least partially within the receiving portion. The flexible members and the receiving portion are separate structures.

Weber '413, as discussed above, fails to show, teach or suggest, flexible members with separate portions for receiving pressure at one portions of the flexible member and disengaging in response to pressure at another portion of the flexible member. Additionally, Weber '413 shows only a single structure formed of the spring clips 13.

Based on the above, Weber '413 fails to show separate structures for the flexible members and the receiving portion. As the spring clips 13 function completely different from the claimed structure, it is respectfully asserted that Weber '413, fails to show, teach or suggest the claimed invention, whereby Weber '413 neither anticipates under 35 USC 102(b) nor renders claims 16 and 23 obvious under 35 USC 103(a).

Since claims 16 and 23 are neither anticipated by Weber '413 under 35 USC 102(b), nor obvious in view of Weber '413 under 35 USC 103(a), claims 17 and 18, and 24-26, respectively dependent thereon, are also allowable over this cited art for the same reasons. These claims further distinguish the invention from this cited art.

IV. Conclusion

The correspondence address under which the Office Action was received was incorrect. The correspondence address should be changed as follows:

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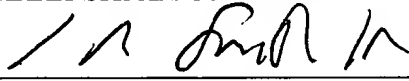
Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this paper, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Allowance of all pending claims, 9-26, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 28, 2005

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